



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

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September 7, 2017

Laurel Man Sentenced to 40 Years in Prison for Assaulting Two Women

A Laurel man was sentenced to 40 years in prison for assaulting two young women in his basement apartment. Edward Witherspoon, 58, of the 8600 block of Eastern Morning Run, was sentenced in Howard County Circuit Court today in two separate cases investigated and prosecuted by Baltimore City and Howard County authorities.

Last June, a jury convicted Witherspoon of the January 2016 kidnapping and sexual assault of a Loyola University Maryland female student. That trial followed Witherspoon's May trial and conviction for assaulting another young woman whom he transported from Fells Point to his basement apartment in 2015. The jury deadlocked on rape and sex offense charges before returning a guilty verdict on a second-degree assault charge.

According to police and prosecutors, both women were incapacitated by alcohol following evenings out at the Power Point Live entertainment district and in Fells Point. In both cases which Baltimore City Assistant State's Attorney Katherine M. Smeltzer called "eerily, eerily similar," Witherspoon observed that the women had become separated from their friends and offered to give them a lift home. Instead, Witherspoon drove them to his apartment in Laurel where he assaulted them before driving them to their respective destinations.

Both women were present and read their victim impact statements to the court. Each pointedly told Witherspoon that it was his decision to take advantage of and to assault her—despite his contention that he was only trying to help. Witherspoon apologized to each victim but stated, during one hearing, "I feel I didn't do anything wrong."

Addressing Witherspoon, retired Howard County Circuit Court Judge Raymond J. Kane stated, "I hope it is obvious to you that the jury rejected your position that you were a knight in shining armor." Kane sentenced Witherspoon to 30 years in prison on the kidnapping charge and a 20-year concurrent sentence on the 2nd-degree sex offense charge involving the Loyola student. In the separate case, Judge Mary Kramer observed, "I find the similarity of the offenses disturbing," before sentencing Witherspoon to a consecutive sentence of 10 years in prison.

During the sentencing hearings, prosecutors revealed that this week, Witherspoon was charged with sexually assaulting a third woman dating back to September 2014. A preliminary hearing has been scheduled in the District Court for Howard County on October 5.

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